

A Few Questions Answered *Getting Married In Church?*

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

*"At every wedding we go to, people are still talking about our service!
You said you wanted the service to be the highlight of the day and it was."*

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Can I get married in Church, even though I never go to Church?

Yes, of course you can. More than a quarter of all marriages in England between a man and a woman take place in the traditional setting of a Church of England church. You're welcome to marry in church whatever your beliefs, whether or not you are baptised and whether or not you go to church.

Churches are used to meeting with people who are not regular attenders through christenings, weddings and funerals, and will make you feel welcome.

It is now possible to get married in many other Church buildings than the one in the Parish in which you live. (See back page for more details.)



ds Debbie Stogden
Photography

Won't a Church wedding be more expensive?

A Church wedding will usually cost less than a wedding service at your reception venue, where as well as hire of the room you may also pay £450 for the Registrar to attend.

The basic cost of a Church wedding for 2014, which is set nationally, is £417. The Church you choose may have additional optional costs including vergers, organist, choir and bell ringers. All of this together will likely be less than a ceremony at your wedding venue, and the service will last a lot longer!

What makes a Church wedding different?

Your service can be in a historic, listed building that may be centuries old.

It adds dignity to your ceremony as father walks the Bride down the aisle to meet her groom.

Together with readings, hymns, prayers and music, it helps make your vows even more special.

The Church represents that power beyond all of us, as we seek God's blessing on couples as they commit themselves to one another in life.



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MICHAEL CARTWRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY

“The marriage of our daughter was one of the great days of our lives and we felt that the service was a highlight that will stay forever in our memories. Indeed, we lost count of the number of guests who made comments in a similar vein.”

Which Church can I get married in?

It used to be just the Parish Churches where either Bride or Groom lived, but options have opened considerably.

You can get married in a Church of your choice if one of you:

- 1 lives in the parish
- 2 is on the church's electoral roll
- 3 has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- 4 has habitually attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months
- 5 was baptised in the parish
- 6 was prepared for confirmation in the parish

or one of your parents; at any time after you were born:

- 7 has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- 8 has at any time habitually attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

or one of your parents or grandparents:

- 9 was married in the parish.

or:

- 10 you have been granted a Special Licence.

Some Parishes under one Vicar, now have special permission from the Archbishop, so that if you qualify for one Church in the group you can now choose any.

If in doubt, please ask. The Church has considerable experience over centuries and is looking forward to helping make your wedding even more special.